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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS
Lugar: A 'No' by Ankara would disappoint U.S. -
Milliyet
Gul: Baghdad bombings won't affect our decision - Sabah
Turkish rescue team to Baghdad - Milliyet
Terror killed the future UN secretary general -
Hurriyet
Tough mission awaiting Turkish troops in Iraq - Turkiye
Israel opens Haram-al-Sharif to non-Muslims - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS
Lugar: No U.S. 'expectation' from Ankara - Radikal
Annan rebukes occupiers in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Annan: U.S. did not protect us - Yeni Safak
IMF, WB withdraw personnel from Baghdad - Yeni Safak
Iraqi people denounce attack on UN - Zaman
Annan: We won't leave Iraq - Zaman
De Mello worked for humanity - Radikal
Rumsfeld against reinforcement of troops in Iraq -
Zaman
Mideast cease-fire in jeopardy - Radikal

BRIEFING

Congressman Lugar visits Ankara: Senator Richard Lugar, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met with Turkey's foreign, defense, and justice ministers, and with the head of the Turkish General Staff on Wednesday. Senator Lugar said after meeting Foreign Minister Gul that Turkey and the U.S., two strong allies, would both benefit from democratization in Iraq. Turkey's participation in the Iraqi stabilization force would contribute to increased security in Iraq, he added. Lugar later told CNN-Turk that although the U.S. would be 'disappointed' if Turkey opts not to participate in a stabilization force, the U.S. will respect whatever decision Turkey makes. Lugar said that Turkey should make a decision in view of its own national interests. After meeting with Senator Lugar, Justice Minister Cicek said that the 57-year friendship between the U.S. and Turkey should not be sacrificed for the sake of gaining the support of two 'tribal leaders.' (Cicek was clearly referring to Northern Iraqi Kurdish leaders Talabani and Barzani.) Dailies speculate that the U.S. is in need of Turkey's support in Iraq more than ever following the bombing of the UN headquarters building in Baghdad. Lugar assured Ankara that the PKK would be neutralized in Northern Iraq, and that the organization's leaders would not be sent into exile.

Ankara discussing Turkish peacekeepers for Iraq:
Turkey's National Security Council (NSC) will convene on Friday to evaluate a risk analysis report drafted by the MFA and TGS. The NSC will also discuss the letter by NATO Europe Allied Forces Commander, General James Jones, to General Ozkok in response to a Turkish questionnaire about Turkey's participation in the Iraqi stabilization force. Meanwhile, President Sezer has warned the government to refrain from making any commitment to the United States on the issue of troop deployment before parliament makes its decision.

Bombing of UN offices in Baghdad: Foreign Minister Gul said on Wednesday that the recent bomb attack against the UN headquarters in Baghdad would not affect Turkey's decision about sending peacekeepers to Iraq. Papers regard Gul's remarks as indicating Ankara's willingness to adopt a decision for deploying troops for the Iraqi stabilization force.

U.S., Turkey finalize loan talks: Turkey's economic bureaucrats have wrapped up talks with the U.S. Treasury and IMF officials in Washington regarding the \$1 billion grant to be given by the U.S. to compensate Ankara's losses from the war with Iraq. The U.S. Administration wants the IMF to control disbursement of the grant. The \$1 billion grant agreement, which could also be taken as a loan of \$8.5 billion, will be signed during the visit of State Minister Babacan to the U.S. on September 8, an AKP official told the press.

Police searching for the Uzans: An unnamed official told reporters that Uzan family members had left Turkey the night they learnt about the arrest warrant that had been issued for them. Dailies report on the front page that the Uzans had tapped the mobile phones of Turkey's top energy, banking and finance bureaucrats and some prominent politicians. CD recordings of phone conversations were found in a secret depot controlled by the family in Istanbul. Police also found CD recordings containing compromising evidence against bureaucrats and rival businessmen. Police said that the Uzans had set up a special unit of 40 technicians for wiretapping.

EDITORIAL OPINION: UN HEADQUARTERS BOMBING

"The terrorists were created by Bush" Soli Ozel argued in the mass appeal Sabah (8/21): "The attack against the UN headquarters is atrocious and treacherous. It was an assault against an international organization that stood against the Iraq war. It was also an attack against the whole world. This incident will only mean more suffering for Iraqis. . But the Bush administration, through its aggressive stance around the world following the US declaration of war against Islamic terrorism after 9/11, has created suitable conditions in which its enemies can operate. . At the current stage, the best solution is that the UN assume more responsibility in Iraq. There should be an international force, and authority should be gradually given back to the Iraqis. These issues also require an internal debate in Turkey before making a decision on a possible deployment in Iraq."

"Iraq is turning into Lebanon" Yalcin Dogan observed in the mass appeal Hurriyet (8/21): "Unfortunately, Iraq has become hospitable ground for fundamentalist terrorist organizations such as Al Qaida and Ansar-al Islam. The UN headquarters bombing seems to be the first in a series of terrorist attacks designed to create an impact around the world. . There is a power vacuum in Iraq, which has created a very suitable atmosphere for these terrorist organizations. But the fact of the matter is that the vacuum is being perpetuated by the Iraqi people themselves. Iraqis are not only standing against the US presence, but against any other foreign presence as well. They appreciated US forces at the beginning, because the US ended the cruel regime of Saddam. However, the current image of American soldiers in the eyes of Iraqis is that of an 'occupation force,' not a liberator. This mentality creates a very high risk for Iraq's security, and has made Iraq into a place where terrorists are supported by the locals. . Due to the ongoing possibility of more terrorism, Iraq is rapidly moving towards fragmentation. Terrorism and division is reminiscent of Lebanon in the 1980s or Yugoslavia in the 1990s."

EDELMAN